

I recently read in my local paper about the plan for modifying identification of railcars carrying hazardous materials. I don't believe that this is the proper way to do things, as it puts the first response teams at risk, as it may be difficult to obtain information about which cars are carrying what materials. It also makes it difficult for firemen and police crews to determine whether to issue an evacuation or to tell citizens living nearby to simply close windows and doors.

The subject matter becomes personal to me, as I live within a one mile range of a pair of railroad tracks, and less than 5 miles from the Kentucky Ford Manufacturing Facility. -Highly- toxic materials are transported along those tracks regularly, putting my area at risk if a crash occurs or a terrorist attack occurs. The emergency response team would have difficulty identifying materials and could put themselves at risk if they wished to do so and whichever method [of identification] the TSA chooses is not implemented locally.

Even if this new method is implemented, terrorists will most likely attack any train that nears them simply to cause panic. If it proves safe, and does not carry hazardous materials, they'll simply wait until the next train passes and will attack it.

The cost of this system would also be enourmous, putting another load on the American taxpayers. History has also shown that what is availiable to the American public freely, such as this suggesting document, is just as freely availiable to terrorists. By even putting focus on such an issue it brings it to light for terrorist use.

Therefore, it is in the best interest of all people to leave the identification system for railcars as is, in order to insure safety for all of humanity that live near American railroads.